

(e) *Coordination of monitoring activities.* To the extent practicable, monitoring and evaluation should be conducted jointly with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, scientific and academic communities, and others. In addition, the responsible official must provide appropriate opportunities for the public to be involved and utilize scientists as described in §219.23.

(f) *Annual monitoring and evaluation report.* The responsible official must prepare a monitoring and evaluation report for the plan area within 6 months following the end of each fiscal year. The report must be maintained with the plan documents (§219.30(d)(5)), and include the following:

(1) A list or reference to monitoring required by the plan; and

(2) A summary of the results of monitoring and evaluation performed during the preceding fiscal year and appropriate results from previous years. The summary must include:

(i) A description of the progress toward achievement of desired conditions within the plan area; and

(ii) A description of the plan area's contribution to the achievement of applicable outcomes of the Forest Service national strategic plan.

COLLABORATIVE PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

§219.12 Collaboration and cooperatively developed landscape goals.

(a) *Collaboration.* To promote sustainability, the responsible official must actively engage the American public, interested organizations, private landowners, state, local, and Tribal governments, federal agencies, and others in the stewardship of National Forest System lands. To engage people in the stewardship of National Forest System lands, the responsible official may assume many roles, such as leader, organizer, facilitator, or participant. The responsible official must provide early and frequent opportunities for people to participate openly and meaningfully in planning taking into account the diverse roles, jurisdictions, and responsibilities of interested and affected organizations, groups, and individuals. The responsible official has the discre-

tion to determine how to provide these opportunities in the planning process.

(b) *Cooperatively developed landscape goals.* (1) The responsible official and other Forest Service employees involved in planning must invite and encourage others to engage in the collaborative development of landscape goals. Using information from broad-scale assessments or other available information, and subject to applicable laws, the responsible official may initiate or join ongoing collaborative efforts to develop or propose landscape goals for areas that include National Forest System lands.

(2) During collaborative efforts, responsible officials and other Forest Service employees, must communicate and foster understanding of the nation's declaration of environmental policy as set forth in section 101(b) of the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321–4347), which states that it is the continuing responsibility of the Federal Government to use all practicable means, consistent with other essential considerations of national policy, to improve and coordinate federal plans, functions, programs, and resources to the end that the Nation may—

(i) Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;

(ii) Assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;

(iii) Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;

(iv) Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity, and variety of individual choice;

(v) Achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and

(vi) Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

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(3) Cooperatively developed landscape goals, whether the result of efforts initiated by the Forest Service or others, must be deemed an issue for the purposes under § 219.4.

§ 219.13 Coordination among federal agencies.

The responsible official must provide early and frequent coordination with appropriate federal agencies and may provide opportunities:

(a) For interested or affected federal agencies to participate in the identification of issues and formulation of proposed actions;

(b) For the streamlined coordination of federal agency policies, resource management plans, or programs; and

(c) The development, where appropriate and practicable, of joint resource management plans.

§ 219.14 Involvement of state and local governments.

The responsible official must provide early and frequent opportunities for state and local governments to:

(a) Participate in the planning process, including the identification of issues; and

(b) Contribute to the streamlined coordination of resource management plans or programs.

§ 219.15 Interaction with American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.

(a) The Forest Service shares in the federal government's overall trust responsibility for federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.

(b) During planning, the responsible official must consider the government-to-government relationship between American Indian or Alaska Native tribal governments and the federal government.

(c) The responsible official must consult with and invite American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives to participate in the planning process to assist in:

(1) The early identification of treaty rights, treaty-protected resources, and American Indian tribe trust resources;

(2) The consideration of tribal data and resource knowledge provided by tribal representatives; and

(3) The consideration of tribal concerns and suggestions during decision-making.

§ 219.16 Relationships with interested individuals and organizations.

The responsible official must:

(a) Make planning information available to the extent allowed by law;

(b) Conduct planning processes that are fair, meaningful, and open to persons with diverse opinions;

(c) Provide early and frequent opportunities for participation in the identification of issues;

(d) Encourage interested individuals and organizations to work collaboratively with one another to improve understanding and develop cooperative landscape and other goals;

(e) Consult with individuals and organizations who can provide information about current and historic public uses within an assessment or plan area, about the location of unique and sensitive resources and values and cultural practices related to issues in the plan area; and

(f) Consult with scientific experts and other knowledgeable persons, as appropriate, during consideration of collaboratively developed landscape goals and other activities.

§ 219.17 Interaction with private landowners.

The responsible official must seek to collaborate with those who have control or authority over lands adjacent to or within the external boundaries of national forests or grasslands to identify:

(a) Local knowledge;

(b) Potential actions and partnership activities;

(c) Potential conditions and activities on the adjacent lands that may affect management of National Forest System lands, or vice versa; and

(d) Issues (§ 219.4).

§ 219.18 Role of advisory committees.

(a) *Advisory committees.* Advisory committees can provide an immediate, representative, and predictable structure within which public dialogue can occur and the Forest Service can develop relationships with diverse communities of interests. The responsible